Mr. Dal McGuirk
93 Pah Road
Epson, Auckland 3
New Zealand

4/3/92

Dear Mr. McGuirk,

Until I reached the nate at the end of your 29/3 I was troubled about how to answer it but knowing you are a teacher of history told me, as you'll see.

First, what may surprise you: you are the only one I remember from about 20,000 letters and innumerable appearances and interviewsw who perceived what I did in beginning the Tippit chpater in my first book, approximately, "If the Tippit murder had not happened it would have had to have been invented." (That 1965 book, my first, is also the first on the Warren Commission and the only one still available. Meaning of the earlier books.)

With regard to your kind offer of a donation, for which thanks, an explanation. And as you seem to believe, I am not a lawyer. My "organization" consists of my wife and me. I'll be 79 in five days. I am a former reporter, investigative reporter, U.S.Senate investigator and editor, and I was in OSS in World War II, but not a spook. I have made extensive use of the Freedom of Information Act to obtain about a third of a million pages of once-withheld government records relating to the JFK and King investigations, about a dozen lawsuits in all. (I was also James Earl Ray's investigator, conducting the habeas corpus investigation by means of which he sought the trial he never had. We won and got an evidentiary hearing, for which I also conducted the investigation, and lost after exculpating Ray because the judge held that at that stage guilt or innocence were immaterial!) I believe that the records I obtained by these lawsuits are not mine in a property sense, although my use if them is, and thus I have become surrogate for the people with those records. So, as a matter of practise, I make no charge for anything I do. However, because of seriously impaired health, I am limited in what I am able to do. These health problems and what they require, like keeping my legs elevated when I am not on them, plus this winter's split fingertips, account for this typing, for which I aplogize.

I also tell you, because I'll say what you may regard as prejudiced, that I am convinced that all the theories advanced as non-fiction, including in the Oliver Stone movie, are in varying degrees flawed, most quite seriously, some entirely. The crime itself was never investigated and never intended to be so there are no leads to be followed. There are also too many for pinpointing by <u>cui bono</u> reasoning. For fiction these theories are OK but not for non-fiction because they mislead, misinform, confuse and serve to bury truth deeper.

When Nigel Turner was here working on the show that he later expanded into "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" I told him I would not have anything to do with his show if like all the others he would be presenting a conspiracy theory as a solution. On his word that he would not I agreed to the interview. I saw the first show but believing that five hours on the expanded one would be a waste of time I did not see it. I have an idea of how he closes it and that was something I volunteered. It was not in response to any questions he asked. And there is nothing to that Corsican story. I debunked it many years ago for a lawyer friend of mine associated with the writer who lost his book over airing of that show.

With regard to the story you saw that the KGB suspected Oswald, it let ABC-TV News look at some of those records and what they aired actually adds nothing to what I published in Post Nortem in 1975 when I had a few pages I could use for that information.

Contract on America and Mafia Kingfish are by men who began with that preconception and cared naught for anything else. There is virtually no mention of the assassination itself in Scheim's book. He assumes that Oswald was the assassin and he fabricated based on that assumption. What Davis uses to pasteup a mafia connection is not credible, not entirely honest (as in not disclosing tha the FBI informer Becker went to the FBI after leaving Marcello and told it No such thing, that thing apparently coming to mind when a book was in prospect.). Davis has a student searching my files for all her spare time for a semester and he also assumed he had to know nothing about the assassination and had her searching for mafia referrences. As I recall, not one was substantiated and not one of the sources was dependable or trustworthy. From my experiences with him Davis also is not a good person

and this makes me trust him less. I suppose I should explain that. He took much of my time by phone and letters, more meaningful to me at my age with with my health problems, so did the student, she made quite a few copies on our xerox, for which I charged only 10¢, what the FBI charges, although on that machine our cost was closer to 25¢ (for which reason we've replaced it), I asked nothing of him and he gave me nothing, and then he was a wretched liar and slanderer in his book. Because he needed a basis for claiming that Marcello was worried about the records connecting him with the assassination, which is false, he actually wrote of me that the man he'd described as the top mafia lawyer, when he had no mafia connections and was an outstanding and respected immigration lawyer, spent as I recall a summer rummaging through my records. That man, safely dead so he could not sue, was never here, we never laid eyes on each other, he asked nothing of me and I had one hell of a time getting that withdrawn from the paperback reprint. He was so dirty because in fact Marcello did not give a damn about the official records because he had nothing to do with the assassination. If he had his lawyer could have gotten all I got by merely paying the FBI for them because once they are released to me anyone can get them that way.

The picture to which you refer was taken by a woman named Mary Moorman, since remarried. You are right to question whether or not the man who can be seen in it was firing a weapon because there is no evidence of a shot from that position. Unless I recall it inaccurately. But the picture does not show a shooting.

If you want a list of the books that will mislead and misinform you and not infrequently lie to you, I'll copy a bibliography for you. But the only books that do not trash the assassination by unproven theorizing that can't be proven and usually are easily disproven I'll make a copy for you. The truly good one are long out of print, Meagher's Accessories after the Fact and Roffman's Presumed Guilty. The only factual and good VCR is an excellent one, Reasonable Doubt, by Selby.

I tell you about my books not to sell them but to save time and trouble in the event you do. In computing shipping costs Post Mortem ($10.00) and Frame-Up (also $10,00 and on the King assassination), figure two pounds. On the others, one pound each.

Whitewash I is available in only a high-quality, actual-size xerox, bond paper, durable binding @ $25. Whitewash II and IV are each $6.00. Whitewash III (Photohraphic Whitewash is $8.00. Oswald in New Orleans, which I did not publish, is available only on a xerox with two pages on one side of an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet, durable binding, but in some places not clear. I hope to be able to correct that in the not distant future so that it will be clearer. But we've had no compaints. Also $25.00. Your post office should be able to tell you the surface-mail cost when you give it the weight. And if you do order, please remit in US currency because we live in the country and our bank makes two additional charges for having the conversion made in Baltimore.

There ia an excellent but dated bibliography about 15 years old by Wrone and Guth, Greenwood Press, but it is expensive.

David Wrone, professor of history, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481; Gerald McKnight, professor of history, local Hood College and Gerald Ginocchip are three fine and responsible men who teach courses in political assassinations as history and political science, not as whodunits and not with theories. Ginocchio is a sociologist at Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC 29302.

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg